

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1259 without my signature.

This bill establishes a dangerous precedent by authorizing the Baldwin Hills Conservancy to circumvent the current review and approval process relative to land purchase transactions. Under current law, the Conservancy must comply with the Property Acquisition Law, which requires land acquisition appraisals to go through the acquisition approval process of the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Public Works Board (PWB). The current process works to protect the state's taxpayers as well as the acquiring agency in closing real estate transactions.

This bill authorizes the Baldwin Hills Conservancy to contract with state-licensed and certified appraisers with oil field acquisition and management experience, other than the Department of General Services, to conduct land appraisals required for the acquisition approval process of the State Public Works Board. It will still have DGS conduct the final review of these appraisals.

The bill also redefines the Conservancy's area to include Vista Pacifica and Blair Hill, and exclude the area constituting Culver City. There is merit to reviewing the boundaries of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy to include Vista Pacifica and Blair Hill and exclude the area in Culver City which the author may want to pursue in the next legislative session.

For these reasons I am unable to support this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger